

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
March 10, 2008

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Nesbitt, Paulhus, Schaefer
Absent: Koehn, Paterson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2008 meeting with corrections.
Motion passed unanimously.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Deputy Mayor Haddad requested a moment of silence in remembrance of U.S. military and civilians who have perished or have been injured in the conflicts around the world.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

No comments

V. PUBLIC HEARING

1. An Ordinance Continuing and Establishing Various Administrative Departments by Ordinance

Deputy Mayor Haddad called the public hearing to order and asked for comments from the public and Council members. Hearing none Mr. Haddad closed the public hearing.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

2. An Ordinance Continuing and Establishing Various Administrative Departments by Ordinance

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to adopt An Ordinance Continuing and Establishing Various Administrative Departments Responsible for Public Services, dated February 25, 2008, which ordinance shall be effective 21 days after publication in a newspaper having a circulation within the Town of Mansfield.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Community/Campus Relations, Discussion of Certain Noise Abatement Ordinances

Mike Nintean, Director of Building and Housing Inspection, and SGT Brian Kennedy, Resident Trooper Coordinator, reviewed the effectiveness of a number of nuisance abatement ordinances.

Mr. Nintean discussed the enforcement of the litter ordinance describing the three levels of enforcement. The levels are a courtesy notice, a written warning and then a ticket. The enforcement officers patrol the areas of Town that are included in the certification zone.

SGT Kennedy discussed the noise ordinance, the open container ordinance, the possession of alcohol by minors ordinance and the special police ordinance. He noted that as of October 18, 2007 all personnel in the office have been trained in the use of the noise meters. SGT Kennedy described how the department uses state and local laws to address various situations noting that when dealing with a large number of people the goal is safety. SGT Kennedy and Town Manager Matt Hart will schedule another meeting with Aspen Management regarding their security plans for the spring. Last year's efforts at Carriage House were quite successful.

Council members discussed the coordination between the Resident Trooper Coordinator and the troopers who respond to local calls noting that any changes to the process would need to be instituted by the commander. Members also discussed the best way to control large gatherings of students. Several members commented that a massive police presence has been tried and the current community policing effort is showing results.

4. Community Water and Wastewater issues

Town Manager Matt Hart distributed a letter he received today from UConn outlining plans for an upcoming meeting with the Storrs Heights Association and suggesting the Council might wish to request a review and an assessment from the Eastern Highland Health District and meet with UConn officials prior to taking any action regarding the Agronomy Farm. By consensus the Council agreed with this approach. Mr. Haddad recused himself from all discussion on the issue.

5. 2008 Social Services Block Grant

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, effective March 10, 2008, that the Town Manager, Mathew Hart, is empowered to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name and on behalf of this Contractor with the Department of Social Services of the State of Connecticut for a Social Services Block Grant program, and to affix the corporate seal.

Resolved, effective March 10, 2008, that the Town of Mansfield hereby adopts as its policy to support the nondiscrimination agreements and warranties required under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4a.60(a)(1) and § 4a-60a(a)(1), as amended in the State of Connecticut Public Act 07-245 and sections 9(a)(1) and 10(a)(1) of Public Act 07-142, as those statutes may be amended from time to time.

Motion passed unanimously.

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VII. NEW BUSINESS

6. Proclamation on Honor of Girls Scouts Week

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Duffy, effective March 10, 2008, to authorize Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad to issue the attached Proclamation in Honor of Girls Scout Week. (Attached)

Motion passed unanimously.

7. State of Connecticut Department of Social Services Senior Services Grants

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, effective March 10, 2008, to authorize the Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart to submit an application to the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services for grant funds to provide case management services.

Resolved, effective March 10, 2008, to authorize the Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart to submit an application to the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services for grant funds to develop or enhance an existing senior center program for older adults.

Motion passed with all in favor except for Ms. Duffy who abstained.

8. Four Corner Sewer Study

Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works, reported the next step in the process is the dissemination of the information contained in the Four Corner Sewer Study, including public presentations at future Council and PZC meetings. Mr. Hultgren reported the PZC will have design guidelines in place prior to the beginning of any sewer project.

Mr. Clouette asked the Town Manager and Town Attorney to ascertain what the Town's obligation might be if an emergency system failure were to occur and the Town had not taken any action.

By consensus the Council agreed to schedule a joint public information meeting with the PZC to review the report and recommendations.

9. Town Council Policy Index

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Blair seconded to move the following resolution by reference:

Whereas from time to time the Council passes resolutions that represent, in whole or in part, broad statements of policy; and

Whereas, although these policy statements are not binding on future Council action, it is advisable to have these statements organized and available to the public:

Therefore be it Resolved, that

The Town Clerk shall maintain a document, in both printed and electronic updateable forms, entitled "Policy Resolutions of the Mansfield Town Council." The printed version shall be available at the Town Clerk's office, the Town Manager's office, and the Mansfield Library. The electronic version shall be available via the Town's web site. Updates shall be transmitted to email subscribers who indicate an interest in receiving them.

Resolutions that represent policy statements may be entered into the document by vote of the Council. Such statements shall have a title and contain the words "said resolution shall be entered in "Policy Resolutions of the Mansfield Town Council" or similar wording.

Each resolution or portion of a resolution so designated for inclusion in the document shall be identified by its title and accompanied by the date of its enactment. A portion of a resolution (i.e., policy preamble) shall be accompanied by a statement that places it in the context of the resolution of which it is a part.

Previous resolutions passed by the Council may be included in the document by vote of the Council and shall be entered in the document as above, with an appropriate title. Notations in the document shall include the date of the original passage of the resolution and the date in which it was entered in the document.

Resolutions in the document may be deleted, added to, or otherwise amended by vote of the Council. Notations in the document shall include the date of original passage and the date of amendment or, if the resolution is deleted in its entirety, the document shall retain the title and the date of original passage and a notation as to the date of its deletion.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Town Council Rules of Procedure

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Duffy seconded, effective March 10, 2008, to refer to the Personnel Committee the draft Town Council Rules of Procedure, with a charge to develop a proposal for the Town Council's review and consideration.

- Mr. Haddad, Chair of the Personnel Committee, requested that Council members who have suggestions regarding the development of rules of procedures forward them to a member of the Personnel Committee.

- VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- No comments

- IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- Mr. Schaefer reported the Finance Committee reviewed and approved the Town's response to the auditors' questions.

Ms. Duffy announced the Committee on Committees has distributed a press release regarding the new Communication Advisory Committee and will be scheduling interviews this month.

Deputy Mayor Haddad reported the Personnel Committee has reviewed the draft set of goals from the Town Manager and after a few minor adjustments will present them to the Council.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Clouette reported that he and a number of other Council members attended the hearing sponsored by the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. The event was informative and very positive. Healthcare was a recurrent issue of those who spoke.

Mr. Nesbitt relayed a concern from a citizen who told him that one of the PTO's encountered problems with their bake sale during the last election and have been told that no further bake sales will be allowed at the elections. He asked the Town Manager to investigate and report back. The Town Clerk noted that the decision of whether or not to allow bake sales during the elections is solely the decision of the Registrars of Voters and that they have statutory requirements that they must take into consideration.

XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Attached

Mr. Schaefer suggested that when a member of the staff receives an award or commendation the Council should recognize the accomplishment. By consensus the Council agreed to refer the issue to the Personnel Committee for review.

Council members agreed to the changes to the budget calendar as presented in the packet. These changes reflect the approved motion of the last meeting.

The Town Manager will resend his contact information to Council members. He will also forward the contact information for Maria Capriola, Assistant to the Town Manager. Additionally, if someone else is appointed Acting Town Manager their information will be forwarded to Council members.

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

After completion of the budget, Mr. Nesbitt would like to review issues regarding the landlord registration ordinance.

XIII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. Advance, "Hogan's Team Reaches Out to Community" – 2/19/08

12. CCM re: Update: State and Federal Initiatives on Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention

13. Center News, Spring 2008
14. Chronicle, "Bone Marrow Donor was Inspired by Carlee Wines" – 3/5/08
15. Chronicle, "Frozen Kisses and Frozen Fishies" – 2/11/08
16. Chronicle, "Forum Addresses Underage Drinking" – 3/1/08
17. Chronicle, "Forum Fails to Sooth Neighbors' Well Worries – 2/23/08
18. Chronicle, "Forum To Tackle Mansfield Water Issues – 3/3/08
19. Chronicle, "Goodwin Has Special Gift for UConn – 3/4/08
20. Chronicle, "Housing Subdivision Denied in Mansfield – 2/21/08
21. Chronicle, "Hurricane's Wrath Still Moves UConn Students" – 3/3/08
22. Chronicle, "Mansfield Council Approves Revised Art Display Policy" – 2/26/08
23. Chronicle, "Mansfield Man Gets 5 ½ Years In Molestation Case – 3/3/08
24. Chronicle, "Mansfield Wants Money for Hospital – 2/27/08
25. Chronicle, "More Arson Charges for Local Man – 3/1/08
26. Chronicle, "New Bus Route Begins Monday" – 2/29/08
27. Chronicle, "Sunday to be a 'Fun Day' in Mansfield – 2/9/08
28. Chronicle, "Temperature Rises at Annual Chili Fest" – 2/29/08
29. Connecticut Water Company re: Two-Step Rate Increase
30. Government Finance Officers Association re: Distinguished Budget Presentation Award
31. M. Hart re: Appointment to Mansfield Conservation Commission
32. M. Hart re: Downtown Mansfield Revitalization and Enhancement Project Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) \$500,000
33. Horizons, "Downtown Storrs Dressed Up for Winter" – February 2008
34. Horizons, "Winter Fun Day" – February 2008
35. Housing Authority of the Town of Mansfield re: Carriage House Apartments and Security Issues at Holinko Estates
36. New York Times, "Retirees Find Housing at Their Alma Maters" – 9/23/07
37. Proposed Budget Review Calendar
38. Reminder News, "Local 'Winter Fun Day'" – 2/15/08
39. State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security re: Fiscal Year 2008 Emergency Management Performance Grant
40. State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection re: Approval of Town of Coventry's Aquifer Protection Regulations
41. Town of Mansfield Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2006-2007
42. Town of Mansfield Request for Proposal: Disposal of Municipal Solid Waste
43. D. O'Brien re: Landlord Registration Ordinance
44. Press Release re: Mansfield Communications Advisory Committee Seeking Members

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 P.M.

Motion passed unanimously.

Gregory Haddad, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk